

3/10/08 - Monday, March 10, 2008

LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Meeting of March 10, 2008

Members Present: Jenny Ebert, Ken Ziehr, Ken Fulgione, Bob Von Haden, Katrinka Bourne

Members absent: Sue Nelson, John Mann

Minutes. The minutes of the February 4, 2008 meeting and February 20, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

1. Update on CLG Grant. The Commission discussed the 2007 CLG Grant Project. Pat Ivory noted that the National Register preliminary eligibility form had been submitted to the State Historical Society for 101 North Dewey Street (former Huebsch Laundry Building.) Pat indicated that the State had reviewed the submittal and had made a determination that the property is not eligible based on both its lack of historical significance and adverse effects to its integrity.

Since the property is not eligible for the National Register, this leaves \$1,000 remaining of grant funds that have not been committed to a project. These funds would have been used to prepare a National Register nomination if the building had been deemed eligible. The Commission had indicated at a previous meeting that their next priority for utilization of the remaining grant funding is to prepare a walking tour brochure for the historic marker program. Pat informed the Commission that Eric Wheeler would prepare the brochure using the remaining funds. This cost would include the expenses related to hiring a graphic artist to prepare the artwork and layout for the brochure, but would not include printing. Pat noted that the brochure would include a map illustrating the plaque locations.

The Commission discussed the project and suggested that some form of theme or common layout be developed for the brochure that could be used to coordinate with future brochures developed by the Commission.

2. Update on Landmark Activities and Properties.

A. Wisconsin Historical Society Awards. The Commission discussed the awards program sponsored by the Wisconsin Historical Society. At the previous meeting, the Commission had recommended that a nomination be submitted for the Boyd School restoration/re-use project. Pat informed the Commission that Helen Young, an intern from the History Department at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire had agreed to prepare the nomination paperwork for the project.

Helen discussed the project and noted that she would be meeting with the owner, John Mogensen later in the week. Various sources of information for the nomination were discussed, including the Leader Telegram, School District, and the Chippewa Valley Museum. Jenny Ebert noted that she might have some information from the calendar project that she worked on few years ago. Nominations must be submitted by April 1st.

B. New State Legislation on Historic Preservation. The Commission discussed the new legislation being considered in Madison relating to historic preservation. Assembly Bill 599 pertains to the Historic Building Code, code requirements for multifamily dwellings, the historic rehabilitation tax credit and downtown development. Commission members indicated that they would research the merits of the bill and at the next meeting consider sending a letter of support.

C. 1408 and 1500 State Street. The Commission the discussed the status of 1408 State Street and 1500 State Street. Pat noted that work was progressing at 1408 State Street. He noted that he had met with the owner of 1500 State Street to discuss possible renovation and use options for the structure. Pat stated that the owner had indicated that one of the options could involve the removal of the handicapped accessible ramp. The Commission indicated that they would support the removal of the ramp and noted that they would not have to formally approve the removal of the ramp.

D. Preservation Week Activities. The Commission discussed Preservation Week, which is scheduled for May. At the previous meeting, the Commission discussed the possibility of sponsoring a bus tour of historic areas and properties in Eau Claire. Jenny Ebert could be the tour guide and follow a similar route of the tour used for the State Conference last fall. Possible dates could be May 17th, 18th, 24th or 25th. The Commission discussed the proposed event and Pat reviewed some general costs associated with reserving a bus for a tour. The Commission discussed whether the Chippewa Valley Museum would be interested in co-sponsoring the event. Ken Ziehr indicated that he would discuss this with Susan McLeod.

E. Next Meeting. The Commission discussed the possibility of scheduling their April meeting at the Chippewa Valley Museum, which would give the Commission an opportunity to view and discuss the neighborhood exhibit. Ken Ziehr stated that he would also discuss this with Susan McLeod from the Museum.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.